

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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R 191014Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2469

INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0149

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TC

SUBJ: UAE FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAIDI JAN 16 I SAID I HAD HEARD HE WAS APPROACHING THE OTHER RULERS TO TRY TO FORM UP NEW CABINET, AND I ASKED HIM HOW HIS EFFORTS WERE PROGRESSING. HE SMILED WANLY, AND SAID THEY WERE MOVING RATHER SLOWLY. SHAIKH ZAYID'S ABSENCE IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN, AND NOW SHAIKH RASHID'S AS WELL, WOULD DELAY MATTERS. SUWAIDI SAID HE HAD FRANKLY URGED SHAIKH ZAYID NOT TO GO ON HIS USUAL EXTENDED HAWK-HUNTING WINTER VACATION THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRE HIS ATTENTION AT HOME, BUT "YOU KNOW HOW THE SHAIKHS ARE, THEY ARE VERY FOND OF THIS HUNTING." HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK ZAYID WOULD GET BACK MUCH BEFORE END OF FEBRUARY.

2. I ASKED SUWAIDI HOW OTHER RULERS WERE REACTING TO PROPOSALS FOR A STRONGER FEDERAL AUTHORITY. HE SAID THAT EARLIER HE HAD HAD HOPES FOR A REAL CHANGE, BUT HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO SETTLE FOR "40 PERCENT OF WHAT WE WANT." I SAID THAT STRUCK ME AS A PRETTY GOOD PERCENTAGE FOR POLITICAL WORK.

3. COMMENT: SUWAIDI, HIMSELF AN EXPONENT OF STRONGER FEDERATION,
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IS OBVIOUSLY CONDUCTING AN UPHILL BATTLE, NOT ONLY AGAINST THE RULERS

ENTRENCHED STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR PREROGATIVES, BUT AGAINST
ZAYID'S OWN RELUCTANCE TO CHANGE TRADITIONAL WAY OF RUNNING AFFAIRS
OF STATE. SUWAIDI THINKS TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND THAT GOVERNMENT-
TAL APPARATUS IS NOW WOEFULLY INADEQUATE TO TASKS BEFORE IT.
ZAYID APPARENTLY FEELS THINGS IN THEIR PRESENT STATE ARE NOT ALL
THAT BAD.
STERNER

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